

TC ABSTRACT

I. Basic project data

▪ Country/Region:	Regional
▪ TC Name:	Natural and human systems of the Amazon basin: An interactive educational map
▪ TC Number:	RG-T2532
▪ Team Leader/Members:	Team leader: Michele Lemay (INE/RND), Team members: Claudia Perazza (INE/RND), Enrique Ibarra (INE/RND), Yolanda Valle Porrua (INE/RND)
▪ Indicate if: Operational Support, Client Support, or Research & Dissemination.	Research & Dissemination
▪ Date of TC Abstract:	July 16, 2014
▪ Beneficiary:	Regional
▪ Executing Agency and contact name	IDB
▪ IDB Funding Requested:	US\$400,000
▪ Local counterpart funding, if any:	n/a
▪ Disbursement period:	24 months
▪ Required start date:	November 30, 2014
▪ Types of consultants:	Firm and consultants
▪ Prepared by Unit:	INE/RND
▪ Unit of Disbursement Responsibility:	INE/RND
▪ Included in Country Strategy (y/n);	n/a
▪ TC included in CPD (y/n):	n/a
▪ GCI-9 Sector Priority:	Poverty reduction and equity enhancement; and environmental sustainability

II. Objective and Justification

- 2.1 The Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) Region has been deemed the superpower of biodiversity because it is the Region with the most natural capital in the world.¹ It possesses a vast array of terrestrial, freshwater, coastal, and marine ecosystems representing many of the earth's biomes. This natural capital supports ecosystem services that serve as the base for livelihoods, economies, and society at large. Ecosystem services, such as hydrologic services, soil fertility, pollination, pest control and scenic beauty, are the primary inputs for productive sectors key to LAC economies.
- 2.2 The Amazon Basin is the largest river system in the world, unique in the size and abundance of its forests, flooded forests, floodplain lakes, and other wetlands. These rivers and floodplains are critical to urban and rural livelihoods in Amazonia as they

¹ Bovarnick, A., F. Alpizar, C. Schnell (eds.). 2010. Latin America and the Caribbean: A biodiversity superpower. United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and United Nations Environment Program (UNEP). 2010. Atlas of Our Changing Environment: Latin America and the Caribbean, UNEP.

deliver ecosystem services such as provision services (food, water, medicines, construction materials, etc.) cultural services (spiritual, aesthetic and recreation), supporting services (primary production, soil formation) and regulatory services (water, climate). These environmental services are of significant importance not only at the local level but at the regional and global level as well. At the global level, particular significance is given to climate regulation services and globally significant biodiversity.

- 2.3 Large-scale infrastructure development, including hydroelectric dams, roads, and pipelines, is already impacting the Amazon. Aquatic ecosystems and terrestrial ecosystems, and societal wellbeing, will increasingly be impacted by changes in the hydrological cycle caused by dam and road projects, and by upland and floodplain deforestation associated with land use change, and by climate change.
- 2.4 Lack of knowledge across large sectors of society about the extraordinary importance that natural resources in the Amazon basin have for local, regional and global wellbeing is one of the reasons for their inefficient use and eventual loss. It is therefore necessary to produce and make available information materials accessible to wide sectors of society. Such information materials shall provide tools for education and facilitate raising general awareness about the critical importance (from a natural, cultural and economic standpoint) these natural resources have for humanity.
- 2.5 The objective of the proposed Technical Cooperation (TC) is to produce information/educational materials in the form of an annotated map laying out terrestrial and hydrological resources of the Amazon basin. The map will be available both in print and digital form. It will include several layers of information depicting biophysical resources (terrestrial and hydrological), major infrastructure projects, and human productive activities as well as the basic institutional frameworks underpinning different anthropogenic activities (e.g. hydropower, agriculture, mining, etc.). The digital version of the map will enable the user to compare, contrast and combine data on; the status of existing natural resources along the basin, the productive activities that take place in it, how they impact the existing natural capital, and the institutional frameworks that govern the use of natural resources.
- 2.6 The proposed TC will contribute to the GCI-9 lending program priority target of environmental sustainability, as the TC will focus on the provision of user-friendly information on the richness and diversity of natural resources found in the Amazon basin. The proposed TC is also aligned with the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Program, as it will contribute to three of its four components: (i) Assessing and integrating the economic value and importance of biodiversity and ecosystem services into strategic economic sectors; (ii) Investing in priority regional ecosystem conservation; and (iii) Strengthening and fostering environmental governance.

III. Description of activities

3.1 The proposed activities are described in the following table.

ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION	EXPECTED OUTPUTS	EXPECTED RESULTS
1. Data compilation, review and validation	In-depth review of primary and secondary sources	Reliable data for map elaboration available	Increased awareness – through the provision of educational materials – of the relevance of natural resources in the Amazon basin
2. Map design (printed and digital format)	Design process of both printed and digital map	Final versions of the map in print and digital form available	
3. Printing of map	Amazon map printed	Printed version of the map available in: English, Spanish and Portuguese (French?)	
4. Upload map to electronic platform	Digital version of the map uploaded on the National Geographic internet platform	Digital version of the amazon map available world-wide	

IV. Budget

4.1 The total budget for this TC has been estimated in US\$400,000 as shown in the following table.

Indicative Budget

Activity/Component	Description	IDB/Fund Funding US\$	Counterpart Funding	Total Funding US\$
Activities				
Data compilation	In-depth review of primary and secondary sources	200,000	-	200,000
Map design (printed and digital format)	Design process of both printed and digital map	50,000	-	50,000
Printing of map	Amazon map printed	100,000	-	100,000
Upload map to electronic platform	Digital version of the map uploaded on the National Geographic internet platform	50,000	-	50,000
TOTAL		400,000		400,000

V. Executing agency and execution structure

5.1 Given the strategic objectives of the TC and its regional nature, the TC will be executed by the Bank. Additionally, the Bank is able to create capacity, serve as a funder of knowledge and innovation, and impact policy on multiple scales within the Region, thus making the regional coordination of the IDB a necessary aspect of this TC.

5.2 The project team recommends the sole source selection method (SSS) to contract the National Geographic based on its extensive experience producing high quality – extensively researched – materials as the ones described above.

VI. Project Risks and issues

6.1 The only risk is a low uptake of distributed products.

VII. Environmental and Social Classification

7.1 It is not anticipated that the activities to be financed in this TC will have negative direct or indirect social or environmental effects. According to the Bank's Safeguards Screening Toolkit, this operation is classified with "C": (i) no environmental or social risks; (ii) direct contribution to solve an environmental issue.